

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): A retractor comprising:

a shaft; and

an inflatable bladder disposed at an end of the shaft, wherein a portion of the bladder comprises a rigid surface.

Claim 2 (Original): The retractor of claim 1, wherein the bladder comprises at least two rigid surfaces which are connected by regions having differing degrees of resistance to straightening and flexing.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): The retractor of claim 2, wherein the bladder has as an accordion structure.

Claim 4 (Original): The retractor of claim 1, wherein the inflatable bladder does not stretch when fully inflated.

Claim 5 (Original): The retractor of claim 1, wherein the inflatable bladder operates at inflation pressures from 10 mmHg to 1000 mmHg.

Claim 6 (Original): The retractor of claim 5, wherein the inflatable bladder operates at inflation pressures from 100 mmHg to 1000 mmHg.

Claim 7 (Original): The retractor of claim 1, wherein the shaft is rigid.

Claim 8 (Original): The retractor of claim 1, wherein the shaft is flexible.

Claim 9 (Original): The retractor of claim 1, further comprising a cannula having a passage which receives the shaft to deploy the bladder at a target site in tissue.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): The retractor of claim 1, wherein the inflatable bladder has a non-uniform shape.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): The retractor of claim 1, wherein the inflatable shape has a shape selected from the group consisting of circular, oval, eccentric, oblong, conical, wedge-shaped, V-shaped, and multiple lobes.

Claim 12 (Original): The retractor of claim 1, wherein the rigid surface comprises a plate or filament.

Claim 13 (Original): The retractor of claim 12, wherein the plates or filaments are disposed about the periphery of the bladder.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): The retractor of claim 1, further comprising additional inflatable bladders on the shaft.

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Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The retractor of claim 14, wherein the additional inflatable bladders are separately inflatable.